

Highlights

KINGS CANYON



You may not always feel cold in the sun, but make sure that backpack has some very warm clothes in it!

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AROUND GRANT GROVE

The only plowed trail is the Grant Tree Trail loop. When snow covers other trails, give skis or snowshoes a try! Rent them at Grant Grove Market. Purchase a ski trail map and follow the colored markers on trees. See pages 8-9 for snowplay areas.

Review safety advice on page 11. Carry a map, warm clothes, and water. Orient yourself before heading out and tell someone where you are going. You are on your own in the winter woods – be safe!

Walkers & snowshoers: Avoid walking in ski tracks. The footprints harden and catch ski tips, making it dangerous for skiers.

Watch for wildlife tracks in the snow. Bear, deer, mountain lions, bobcats, martens, weasels, coyotes, and Douglas squirrels (or chickarees) may be active throughout the winter.

Winter birds may greet you from the trees: ravens, juncos, chickadees, red-breasted nuthatches, brown

creepers, and white-headed woodpeckers, to name a few. Look for the sweep of wings in the snow where an owl caught a rodent for dinner.



TALKS & SNOWSHOE WALKS:

Check local schedules to see if a ranger-led walk is taking place.

GENERAL GRANT TREE: The world's third-largest living tree. President Coolidge proclaimed it the Nation's Christmas Tree in 1926. It is also a National Shrine, the only living memorial to those who died in war. Visit historic Gamlin Cabin and the Fallen Monarch along this 1/3-mile (.5 km) paved trail. A trail guide is sold at the visitor center. North and west of the visitor center 1 mile (1.6 km).

PANORAMIC POINT: A marked ski/snowshoe trail to a spectacular vista of the High Sierra. Park at Grant Village, go east through the visitor center parking lot, left around the meadow, then right at the sign "Panoramic Point, 2.3 miles (3.7 km)." It's 1/4 mile (.4 km) up to the viewpoint. The 4-mile (6.4 km) round-trip Park Ridge Trail begins here.

NEARBY VIEWPOINTS

OVERLOOKS & VIEWS: For a view of the High Sierra, drive to Kings Canyon Overlook about 6 miles (9.5 km) south of Grant Grove. For a look down into the Kings Canyon, visit Junction View, ~11 miles (15.5 km) north of Grant Grove on Hwy 180.

REDWOOD CANYON

OVERLOOK: Six miles (9.6 km) south of Grant Grove, across the Generals Highway from the Quail Flat junction, this view looks west over one of the world's largest groves of sequoias. Studies here proved the strong positive relationship between fire and giant sequoias.

USFS NATIONAL FOREST & MONUMENT

Explore Giant Sequoia National Monument, part of Sequoia National Forest.

Three trailheads offer snowplay, cross-country ski trails, and snowmobile routes. Rent skis, snowshoes, or buy snowplay equipment at Grant Grove or Montecito-Sequoia (see page 9 for details). Ask for information and a map at Grant Grove Visitor Center:

- **Cherry Gap** is on Highway 180 2.5 miles (4km) north of Grant Grove. It offers 10 miles (16km) of marked winter routes, including a ski trail to the Chicago Stump at the edge of Converse Basin grove.



Virtually every mature sequoia in this huge grove was felled early in the 1900s. The stump is a remnant of a tree taken to exhibit at the 1893 Chicago World's Fair.

South of Grant Grove on the Generals Highway are two trailheads with restrooms:

- **Quail Flat** (6 miles/9.6km south of Hwy 180) has 23 miles (37km) of trails and snowmobile routes. Some connect to Big Meadows.
- **Big Meadows** (8 miles/13km south of Hwy 180) offers 23 miles (37km) of marked, groomed trails and routes that traverse meadows and forest. One route goes to the 1916 Buck Rock Fire Lookout (the tower is closed in winter).

THE FLOOR OF KINGS CANYON

Highway 180 down into the canyon closes in winter due to falling rock. There are some good views out over the canyon between Grant Grove and the Hume Lake junction.

Return in summer to enjoy one of our nation's deepest gorges. See the next page "Cedar Grove" for details.



79th Annual Nation's Christmas Tree Ceremony

December 12th at 2:30 pm

(held annually on the second Sunday of December).

This event celebrates the season and the special designations given to the General Grant Tree. It has been the Nation's Christmas Tree since 1926. In 1956, President Dwight Eisenhower proclaimed it a National Shrine and had his personal representative, Fleet Admiral Nimitz, officially dedicate it on Veteran's Day. Each year during the ceremony, National Park Rangers place a large wreath at the base of this giant sequoia in memory of men and women who gave their lives in service to their country. The event is sponsored by the Sanger Chamber of Commerce. Arriving via the chartered buses from Sanger is recommended as parking is limited. Information: 559-875-4575.

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